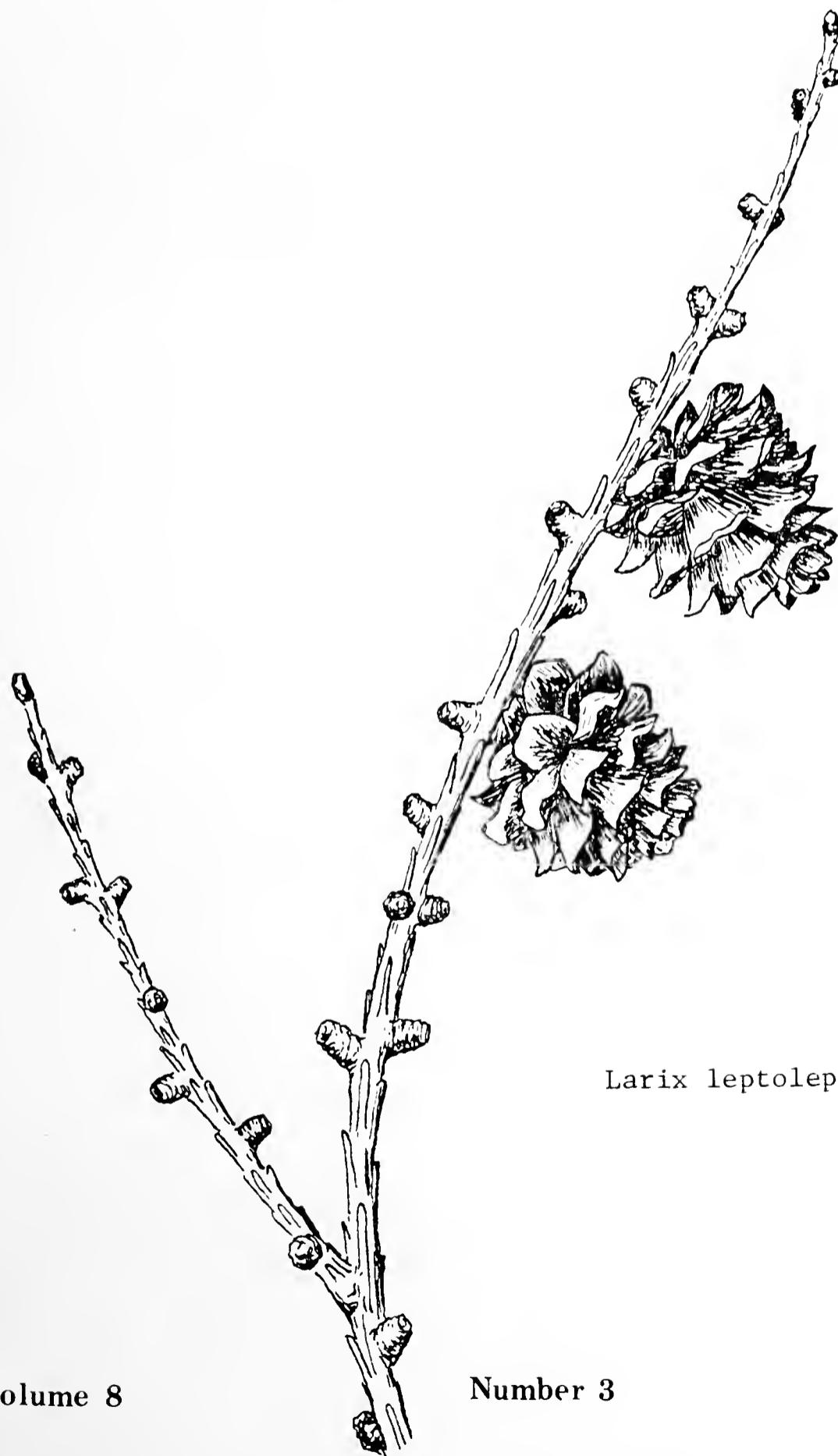


# *Horticulture Northwest*

Journal of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society



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# *Horticulture Northwest*

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Larix leptolepis	
Jean Witt	



## SOME NOTES ON DRIED PLANT MATERIALS

Jean Witt, Seattle, Washington

Whether you are travelling east of the Cascades, or just out walking locally, fall is the time to watch for dried plant materials to use in winter arrangements. You can collect your own from vacant lots and roadsides, or make a few notes for next year's garden. The trick in selection is to balance the bold stiff types with delicate graceful things in a variety of colors--seedpods are by no means all pale beige. Here is a list of plants that we've enjoyed in dry bouquets, from the wild and from the garden.

### Rust to Brown

Bitter Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*). Large, branched sheafs of tiny seed-pods develop a rich, brown color by late summer. Three-foot clumps, vacant lots and roadsides, Western Washington.

Rush (*Juncus* sp.). Our preference is for those with the small, dark-brown heads, common in subalpine wet places; but others with open inflorescences are equally attractive.

Larch (*Larix* sp.). Bare, winter twigs, long and arching, are studded with the knobby little leaf spurs. Inch-high cones are an added bonus. Our Japanese larch sheds a few branches in nearly every windstorm!

Pinedrops (*Pterospora andromedea*). This relative of Indian Pipe from the yellow pine woods starts life looking like pink asparagus, lacking chlorophyll. By fall, only the two-foot tall, rust-brown stalks remain, ladders of little round capsules.

Siberian iris (*Iris sibirica* and related cultivars). The cylindrical pods age to a deep, rich brown. (Bag them as they ripen to avoid self-sown seedlings.) Pods of *Iris douglasiana* and other Pacific Coast natives which split wide open, suggest small, frilled flowers with creamy interiors and rust-colored exteriors, bracts and stem leaves. The dark-brown capsules of *Iris graminea* are heavily ribbed, turning back only slightly at the tips to show a trace of the white, inner surface.

Knotweeds (*Polygonum polystachyum* and perhaps *P. sachalinense*). Large introduced ornamental species, too aggressive for most purposes, but if you can find a patch that has escaped, the flowers and stems dry to a warm, rust color; some of the small roadside species look like dichotomously-branched copper wires.

Wild Buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.). Central and Eastern Washington. *E. niveum*, Snow Buckwheat, has sheaves of ascending, branching stems, tufted with small cream to rose "flowers" which are actually papery involucres surrounding tiny seeds. *E. elatum*'s tall, repeatedly-branched stems and bracts turn rust color late in the season; earlier, both blossoms and stems will dry cream color. Many other species would bear trying, if they do not shatter. The involucres of some of the species with flowers in umbels dry to an attractive rosy-rust color on the plant.



Iris siberica pods  
Jean Witt

Jean Witt

### Pale Green to Straw and Gold

Grasses and cereals contribute endless variety in this color range, as do the sedges (*Carex* sp.). Wild oats is a common roadside weed. Bearded wheat, with it's long awns, is especially attractive. Most collected grasses will probably remain nameless--the only real requirement is that they do not fall apart when dry. Here are a few quite distinct ones:

Wild Rye (*Elymus* sp.). A large and obvious perennial grass in dunes and creek bottoms in Central Washington--long, stiff spikes on four-foot stems rise above bluish foliage.

Rice Grass (*Oryzopsis* sp.). Also on dunes. Much-branched panicles are spreading and airy, the delicate spikelets borne at the ends of threadlike branches, reminiscent of baby's breath, and serving a similar purpose in arrangements.

Quaking Grass (*Briza maxima*). An easily-grown annual offered in catalogs among the ornamental grasses. The very similar Rattlesnake Grass (*Bromus brizaeformis*) can sometimes be found in the drier parts of Eastern Washington. Both have pendant, papery spikelets, like a group of rattlesnake rattles.

Witch Grass (*Panicum occidentale*). A small plant with furry leaves and open panicles of minute spikelets, drying faintly rose color. Suitable for the rock garden if not allowed to seed too freely. Damp areas in the mountains.

Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*). Perhaps our favorite dried item from Central Washington. Two-to-three foot stems carry several pointed pods called follicles, with tiny hooks protruding from most of the outer surface, and a shiny cream-colored lining. The pods assume various cupped and twisted shapes after the silky-tailed seeds have flown. Hair spray would be worth a try, to retain the seeds in barely-open pods.

Love-in-a-Mist (*Nigella damascena*). An easy, self-sowing-annual. Blue flowers are followed by inch-sized balloons with a circle of small horns at the apex and a collar of branching thread-like bracts at the base. Wine and green markings fade out gradually to tan.

Honesty (*Lunaria annua*). The flat silver disks of the "money plant" are universal favorites, and it is an easy garden subject. Feed it too well, and you'll end up with a "money tree"--a great, awkwardly-branched rack of "dollars" unsuited to arrangements. Lean soil will reduce the branching to single, more useful stems.

Penny Cress (*Thlaspi arvense*). A wild, weedy relative of the "money plant," with many flat fingernail-sized pods. Pepper Grass (*Lepidium perfoliatum*), still another member of the mustard family, about a foot tall, with wide-spreading racemes of tiny round pods.

Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus macrocarpus*). A lucky find in the sagebrush areas; two pods, one slightly above the other on a leafless 20" stem. Bleached almost white by the Central Washington sun, the long, pointed capsule tips diverge slightly, suggesting a tubular three-parted flower.

Western Blue Flag (*Iris missouriensis*). Seedpods slightly larger than the above, visable in large clumps in pastures east of the mountains; three to four pods on a 15" stem, bleached on the outside, a warm golden beige on the inside, tips flaring only a little. Alaska Wild Iris (*Iris setosa*), an easy and attractive garden plant in our area. Handsome blue flowers on dichotomously-branched stems are followed by six to eight small "watermelons," which dry to slightly open, papery cups of pale tan.

Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*). Many small, aster-like flowers in loose clusters. In our experience, this plant, common on cut-over land, suffers from weak stems and probably should be hung upside down to dry.

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*). The familiar flat-topped inflorescences, beloved of landscape architects as model trees, are supported by stout, stiff stems and dry to an attractive dull gold, only the involucral bracts remaining as a host of tiny tufts.

Desert Parsley (*Lomatium dissectum*). The umbrella-rib seed clusters, held up by hollow 2-1/2" stems, survive long after all trace of the foliage has vanished under the hot desert sun.

#### Odds and Ends in Other Colors

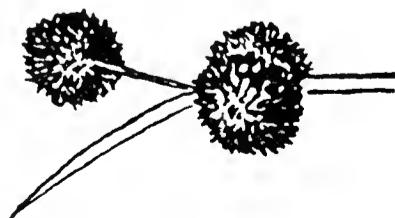
Flowering Onions (*Allium* sp.). Seed heads of a number of ornamental onions make elegant dried material, but our favorite is *Allium pulchellum*. If picked in bloom, the small flowers, like clusters of tiny skyrocket stars, hold their rose-purple color quite well.

Statice (*Limonium sinuata*). A garden annual, with odd, flanged stems and crepe paper-textured flowers in lavender-blue, rose or white. Sprays from fresh florists' bouquets dry quickly when deprived of water, and the color is long-lasting. *L. bonduellii* has yellow flowers.

Other bright-colored garden possibilities are Chinese Lanterns (*Physalis alkekengi*). Pointed pendant balloons of brilliant orange--perennial. Blackberry Lily (*Belamcanda chinensis*). Pods burst and recurve, showing clusters of black seeds. (Slugs are very fond of the foliage.) *Iris foetidissima*. Dowdy flowers make very little contribution in the garden, but open pods of large orange-red seeds can be quite spectacular.

Dead twigs of desert sagebrush with dabs of yellow and burnt-orange lichens on their silvery bark can be used to give a sort of winter bonsai effect.

Ruffled yellow lichens color the dead lower branches of young yellow pine trees (*Pinus ponderosa*) in some areas, and these are quite useful in large arrangements if the branches are selected for their curves or line.



## DIRCA PALUSTRIS

Elizabeth Corning, Albany, New York

Through his interest in both the American Indian and our native trees and shrubs, my husband's curiosity was piqued by an article some years ago in The Maine Sportsman magazine entitled "Wilderness Survival Kit: the Wicopy Tree." Thence started a lengthy search for this unique shrub, *Dirca palustris*, also called leatherwood.

The uses for its tough and pliable bark seem almost endless, and with the knowledge of where to find it and how to prepare it, it can indeed be an aid to survival in the forest. A sharp knife is inserted under the bark at the base of the trunk, a segment about an inch wide lifted and stripped to the top. The wood beneath is white and light in weight, but it is the strands of bark which are put to use by braiding them into a rope. This is said to be strong enough to support the weight of 1,000 pounds, and has been used to hang deer for dressing, and even to pull out a vehicle mired in spring mud, as well as being indispensable around the early settlers' homes, before twine was readily available, to mend harness or snowshoes, serve as shoelaces, make gill nets and snares, and for the Indians, it produced a very useful bow string.

With these multiple attributes, it seems strange that today it is practically unknown. Extensive exploration in parts of Maine failed to reveal it in the wild, but suddenly we came upon it planted on a nature trail in Vermont, which eventually produced a gift of two small specimens, now thriving in their new location on our place. It is said to need rich soil with plentiful moisture, as indicated by its specific name. It usually grows as a single trunk, branching at the top, and it is so inconspicuous that one could pass it unnoticed unless searching for this valuable gift of nature.

This year we were rewarded with a most astonishing and unexpected surprise: the shrubs were hung from top to bottom with brilliant little golden bells, so early in the spring they even outdid the *Forsythia* and *Lindera benzoin*. This added bonus has put it in the class of one of our favorite shrubs for naturalistic planting, deserving to be better known.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Perry Johanson

Eileen Sutton

## ALPINES '81 - MEMBER'S REPORT

compiled by Sallie D. Allen, Seattle, Washington

The Fifth International Rock Garden Plant Conference, sponsored by the English Alpine Garden Society and the Scottish Rock Garden Club, was held in Nottingham, England, April 13-16, 1981. The previous four conferences had been held at ten-year intervals (with the exception of the war years) in Great Britain, however, at the joyous 1971 gathering at Harrogate, it was strongly felt that ten years was too long to wait to meet again. As a result, the first interim meeting was planned and held in Seattle and Vancouver in 1976, sponsored by the American Rock Garden Society and the Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia.

Among the 750 participants in "Alpines '81," twenty members of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society took part in this memorable, happy people-plant experience. Each of us had our own special adventures, as the choices were many. Organized tours included: pre-conference--gardens and nurseries in England; post-conference--to Scotland, one to Ireland, lead by Margaret and Brian Mulligan and one to Sardinia under the expert leadership of Michael and Primrose Upward. Some of our members visited Spain, France and Austria while others travelled throughout Great Britain.

A number of us have exchanged our excitement and enthusiasm with one another, and those I have talked to responded happily to the idea of sharing adventures, impressions and knowledge of perhaps five impressive plants with all NOHS members through the pages of Horticulture Northwest. A letter has been sent to the twenty participants, outlining the plan; no limit was placed on length of individual contributions. It was suggested that comments not be restricted to alpines alone, although the love of those appealing treasures of the plant kingdom is what drew us together at Nottingham. These contributions will appear in upcoming journals as they are received.

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Nottingham Was Just A Beginning.....

Marvin Black, Seattle, Washington

The Ark of the Covenant at Nottingham's ALPINES '81 show was surely the great marquee tent on the lawn where a Who's Who of British alpine nurserydom displayed their best--for sale!--in a display that rivaled the thousand-entry indoor showing by a Who's Who of British "amateur" exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall. Thus the Who's Who of topnotch horticultural and botanical experts holding forth in the Nottingham lecture halls (a disappointingly all-male selection) had their four days' work cut out for them. Most proved equal to the job, some were superb. Two witty speakers stood out, one from Kew, with a brilliant argument for native-plant conservation, and the other from Edinburgh, the incredibly-named Brimsley Burridge whoe talk on noted early British plant explorers pointed out that they were nearly all Scotsmen.

It was hilarious to hear Yorkshiremen in the audience fuss, "can't understand a thing that chap's saying" during lectures by experts from the south of England. Through it all, unflappable Alf Evans, Conference Chairman, the sweetest horticulturist in the world, glued his show into coherency with wit and

kindness. So enthusiastic were the delegates that they attended each others' impromptu slide shows past midnight in dormitory lounges.

The weather, fine before and during the conference, staged a closing Scottish tantrum fit for Macbeth, chasing everyone home with curses. We recall a teeth-chattering post-conference visit to Wisley where hot soup upstaged everything, Hidcote blue with cold, four days from May, and magnolias in bloom at Oxford trying to bear four inches of snow. Oh, to be in England now that April's here!

We held reunions and celebrated new friendships with people such as an apologetic Molly Sanderson (from Ireland) bringing a plant from her car in exchange for some seeds. "I really don't have anything to offer. Could you possibly like this?" It was only the most exciting plant we saw in England, a pure green *Anemone nemorosa* 'Bracteosa.' We carried overseas a lot of native Northwest seeds; they were snapped up, bargain-basement style, by gardeners and nurserymen. There was a delightful ring to hear, when we were introduced to someone, "Oh, we know you. We're growing your seed!" Many fine Northwest native plants are still strangers in English gardens.

And we visited lesser-known, wonderful gardens, gardeners and nurserymen. We were stunned by the 125 acres of perennials at Bressingham Gardens, largest nursery of its type in the world, and warmed by host Alan Bloom, who escorted us about the nine-acre display garden, before its season opening--he even cooked our breakfast complete with the finest rhubarb in all the world, a strain started by his grandfather! Bressingham at twilight and early morning won't soon be forgotten, or the magnificent and little-known acaulis-type primrose named 'Blue Riband' which we hope will grow in our garden.

We stood in Jane Smallwood's garden on the warmer bluffs above Hythe and looked south to where the shores of France loomed ghostly through the Channel's grey mists. In Woking, Joy Forty's collector's garden is loaded with hardy geraniums and the largest variety of rarer variegated and colored-leaved plants we'd seen. Noteworthy there, was a full golden-leaved form of *Melissa officinalis*, lemon balm, and an especially good *Euphorbia charaicas* var. *wulfeni* that towered above the back door, raised from Moroccan seed. A warm sunny day brought sail-boats and water skiers to Lake Ullswater; we passed them en route to Dilys Davies' cottage and garden notched into high rocks nearby in the Lakes District. Next June in Seattle she will describe this most unusual garden on cliffs so steep she ties herself to trees when weeding, so as not to repeat one plunge over the edge.

Britain's eccentric little nurseries are magnificent, hard-to-find, full of tidbits. We brought back plants from Robinson's Hardy Plants and Elizabeth Strangman's Washfield Nursery, both in Kent. At the latter, Miss Strangman is hand-pollinating the cross *Helleborus x nigricors* (*H. niger* x *H. corsicus*), slowly building up a not-for-sale stock of this flashiest of all hellebores. Tucked into London's northeast suburbs is Graham Hutchins' County Park nursery featuring many New Zealand plants new to cultivation, including over 50 hebes for sale, over a dozen *Phormium* cultivars, a regular candy store of rare plants.

A real highlight was meeting John Pemberton, a young city planner from Harrow, a northwest section of London. He has begun a customized tour service for small groups--we were part of his "market research." He took us in his limousine on our chosen tour of Christopher Wren churches. John knows which alleys in the heart of Old London he dare park in without getting a ticket, and

he is a sensitive lover of literature and history. Our two hours' allotment stretched to nearly five, and we were absolutely enchanted with the architecture, the secret gardens, the whimsical odd bits of information he imparted. Particularly noteworthy was St. Dunstan in the East. When bombs demolished this church in the London Blitz, the handsome spire and sandstone walls and arches remained. The City rebuilt not the church, but a garden in the ruins, one of the most intimate, sensitive, colorful and horticulturally-interesting gardens in all of England. The warm buff arches framed blue-clouds of *Ceanothus thrysiflorus* when we saw them, the flowers of this evergreen shrub forming perfect counter-point to trails of pink *Clematis montana* bloom and the mahogany-purple new leaves of purple-leaved grape. Later there would be fig trees on the walls, *Magnolia grandiflora* to spread fragrance, *Actinidia chinensis*, the berries of bittersweet in the autumn. Amid lawns and pools, this most unique and phoenix-like sanctuary spoke about man's soul and resurrection, surely as eloquent a tribute as Wren's crowning church monument of St. Paul's. We saw about a dozen Wren churches this day and found ourselves with a new appreciation of the architecture of this untrained man.

\*\*\*\*

#### Marshall Mitchell; Moe, Australia

Being able to attend the Aplines '81 Conference at Nottingham and doing the associated garden tours was an experience long to be remembered. I am happy to share something from it with NOHS members who were unable to be there. Firstly, it's a long flight from down under (Australia), taking 25 hours. Here one has the leaves starting to turn color in the Southern Hemisphere, then arriving in England with them starting to break into their new springtime growth.

Choosing five plants to mention that were new to me and gave me pleasure is very difficult, but would have been near impossible had I not been there before in 1971. Really, it was like meeting some of the people again, only with plants. However, the *Primula* family really excited me before, so a hybrid, the soft pink *P. 'Beatrice Wooster'* starts off my choice.

Another large family that caught my attention was *Salix*, from many that were enjoyed and looking just lovely in the garden of Sheila and John Maule, was one new to me from Northwest America, *S. cascadensis*. It seemed to be enjoying life in Scotland so well that some of our members were wondering if it was really that! It was a lovely plant.

*Leucanthemum catananche* from Morocco was a new plant that also appealed to me; this with its single, white blooms ringed with brown and yellow gave it much added appeal from the usual solid white species. I'm partial to single daisy flowers and this is another I would like to grow.

*Pieris 'Forest Flame'* was a superb hybrid shrub that took my eye, with its striking colored young foliage, not for its bloom. This appeared hardy, too, in a sheltered woodland setting at the Cox Nursery garden in Scotland, a standout even among the many large rhododendrons flowering around it.

Finally I go to Austria for my fifth selection, a shrub, too, but very different, a white, single flowered plum. The low-growing *Prunus pumila* var. *depressa* was delicate and lovely against mossy rocks.

So many plants of springtime are not mentioned: daphnes, androsaces, many New Zealand ones, or the various trilliums in shades of pink, when I thought they were usually white.

\*\*\*

Alice Lauber, Seattle, Washington

After being inspired by so many fascinating plants in slides and displays at the Rock Garden Conference at Nottingham, and in gardens while touring the British Isles, Marguerite Bennett (Seattle) and I decided we should see a different culture as well as a different setting for plants. With this in mind, we joined Michael and Primrose Upwards' tour of Sardinia with seven others. The Upwards do a superb job of keeping their flock happy and interested and our week with them was the frosting on the cake of our travels.

\*Michael Upwards' main interest was orchids, and we were all charged with finding them while travelling or before we could have picnic lunch or tea. Of course, with our eyes glued to the ground we found endless treats besides the lovely orchids (*Orchis laxiflora*, *O. longiflorus*, *O. papilionacea*, the butterfly orchid, *Serapias lingua*, and *Dactylorichis romana*).

My hope was to see bulbs, but I didn't expect to have to choose between having to step on *Cyclamen repandum* or an orchid while clambering around on hillsides. A delightful treat was finding *Narcissus tazetta* and also *Crocus minima* blooming in wet rocky areas.

We enjoyed a beautiful tall stand of the blue *Iris germanica* viewed with Lago Liscia in the background and the lovely little *I. sibiricum* growing up through the asphalt parking lot. Another pleasure was seeing *Gladiolus communis* growing alongside roadsides and covering fields with their bright pink blooms.

Our trip just whetted our appetite for more and I look forward to the time when I can do more of this kind of plant hunting.

\* Michael Upward is the Secretary of The English Alpine Garden Society, Surrey, England.

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Mareen Kruckeberg, Seattle, Washington

During this, my first trip to Great Britain, it is as difficult to pick out five favorite plants as it is to pick the five favorites in my own garden. However, there are some easy memories to come up with. . . London taxies, chimneys, thatched roofs, drifts of *Narcissus* in lawns, *Ribes sanguineum* everywhere, clipped hedges of beech and hornbeam, stone walls (some over a thousand years old), half-timbered buildings, old, old stone and brick buildings, castles, ferns growing on stone walls, and looking in the wrong direction before crossing the street.

The Burrens in west Ireland were the most fascinating landscape and I believe the fern *Ceterach officinarum* growing in the crevices of the limestone formations would top the list of five favorite plants.

*Lysichitum camtschatcense* was another favorite. It's a beautiful companion plant to our native skunk cabbage, *L. americanum*, but with white spathes instead of yellow. Both species should be more widely used by those with the right environment.

*Sorbus poteriifolia*, a beautiful dwarf sub-shrub, is the smallest of the relatives of the mountain ash. It was very small-leaved, four inches high and spreading to about a foot wide. It is still very rare, but hopefully we can get it propagated in the future.

I saw a number of West Coast natives, but the most beautiful single specimen was *Ribes speciosa*. It was espaliered against a wall and covered with the most striking red fuchsia-like flowers.

I had never seen or heard of *Pinus montezumae* before, but it is on my list of favorites now. It has thick bark, long needles and a broad dome-shaped crown which is very distinctive from other pines I have seen. It is native in south and central Mexico.

My favorite spruce has been *Picea breweriana*, but for the first time I saw a mature specimen of *P. omorika* and I was impressed! It has a very narrow, almost columnar growth and makes a striking silhouette.

\*\*\*\*

Nan Ballard, Issaquah, Washington

With all that choice plant material we saw on the recent sojourn in the British Isles, you might know that the plant which comes first to my mind would be a parasitic volunteer by the untoothsome name of Toothwort. *Lathraea* is a member of the *Orobanchaceae*, the Broomrape family, a parasitic plant feeding on the roots of trees and shrubs since it is completely lacking in chlorophyll. It has tiny scales in place of leaves on fleshy stems and racemes of flowers somewhat reminiscent to those of snapdragon. Particularly spectacular this Spring was *L. clandestina*, its rosy-hued flowers encircling the trunks of willows and poplars for all the world like Hawaiian leis offered in thanks for hospitality. Apparently, it is spontaneous in appearance and does seem to disturb neither the host trees nor the gardeners in charge of them. We saw it at Sissinghurst, Harlow Car, and in numerous other gardens.

In the gardens at Malahide Castle, now under the auspices of the Dublin Parks and Arboreta, I was delighted to see the twelve foot hedge of *Garrya x issaquahensis*, and especially the one plant which bears the varietal name 'Pat Ballard' after the former head gardener of Funnybrook Farm. The late Lord Talbot de Malahide grew these small trees from University of Washington inter-arboreta exchange seed of this natural cross which occurred here in King County.

Another thing which was a constant delight to me was the use of walls, fences, and hedges. We saw stone and brick walls around and within gardens, courtyards, huge estates. We saw hedgerows of various plants; ingenious fences woven of

N.O.H.S. NOTES

Fall 1981

Supplement to Horticulture Northwest

The Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society contributed \$1,000 toward the Sino British Botanical Expedition to Western Yunnan. We received 23 packets of seed from the expedition, all rhododendrons. They were turned over to the Rhododendron Species Foundation, who is best equipped to raise them.

Interim Report

Sino British Botanical Expedition to Western Yunnan 1981

The visit was arranged through the auspices of the Royal Society and the Academia Sinica. This was the first joint botanical field expedition to be undertaken by a Sino-British party. The location for study was the Cangshan mountain range in Western Yunnan--a range with 17 peaks along its jagged ridge and attaining a height of 4122 m. It rises precipitously from the plain which is at a height of 2000 m. The western slopes are wetter than the eastern slopes. Nevertheless, the flora on both sides of the ridge was botanically very rich with a range of plant life from warm temperate to alpine.

Botanical Field Study

After four days of preparation and collecting around Kunming, the party left for the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture (Region) where 27 days were spent botanising from four camps.

Xiaguan, the principle town and seat of Government, was our main base in the Prefecture, and the leaders of the Regional Government gave their full support and seconded a doctor, guards, and forestry officers to the expedition, while the leaders and elders of Yangbi and Dali counties provided the expedition with guides, porters and muleteers.

From Yangbi, two camps were set up on the western slopes, at Dapingdi (2700 m) and at Shangcang (2600 m); while from Xiaguan and Dali on the eastern slopes, a further two camps were set up at Lonquan Peak (3200 m). There were two day outings to Qingbixu (up to 2500 m) and to Santaipo in Weishan County (up to 2550 m) from Xiaguan.

Each day the party botanised from the camps, collecting and recording, and returned in late afternoon to complete the field record books (British and Chinese), to press the specimens, and to attend to the plants and seeds. Drying papers were changed in the mornings. Thus, a daily routine involving all the expedition members was established.

Herbarium collections were made of all flowering and/or fruiting specimens with special attention being paid to *Ericaceae*, *Rhododendron* in particular, *Hypericum*, *Ilex*, *Paris*, *Primula* and *Trillium*. Eight sets were collected where possible; four for China, four for Britain. 1235 specimens were collected during the expedition to Dali, and further 131 specimens around Kunming and in Hong Kong. 700 plants of 180 numbers and 213 seed numbers were also brought back to Britain and many are reintroductions of plants lost to cultivation over the

last 50 years. The plants are now in quarantine for three months and the seeds have been distributed to the members of the party and to contributors.

#### Summary

We achieved our main aims--that of joining with a party of Chinese botanists and successfully, and without any problems at all, participating in a joint field study expedition. This was largely due to the preparatory work (organization, medical and funding) prior to leaving; the very efficient manner in which the members of the Kunming Institute had planned the expedition and had carried out the details; the willingness of everyone to ensure its success; and the friendliness of each and everyone in the joint party.

We appreciated the opportunity to conduct field work to the maximum time available at Dali while trekking into, and out from camps. In this way, the full range of plants were sampled.

There is little doubt that the botanists in the Institute have been conducting similar field expeditions prior to this and are now currently engaged in a multi-disciplinary expedition in northwest Yunnan involving geologists, meteorologists, seismologists, zoologists, etc. Their work during the expedition, recording and sampling the vegetation, is linked with the possible formation of a Cangshan National Park in the near future.

Further joint ventures are sought and an exchange of visits and of information requested. Indeed, we have brought back requests for the loan of Chinese *Caryophyllaceae* and *Rhododendron* type specimens, and hope to arrange a visit of at least one member of the Institute to the Rhododendron Conference in 1982.

R. J. Mitchell, University Botanic Garden, St. Andrews, Scotland  
Leader and Administrator of the British Party



#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New members who have joined the NOHS since the summer issue of the journal appeared are listed in the new roster, with the exception of:

Mrs. Roger Tilbury (Margaret)  
9310 NW Cornell Rd.  
Portland, OR (503) 297-7437

We warmly welcome all new members.



Anyone interested in participation in the Arboretum General Guide Training Program, please call Jan Pirzio-Biroli, Volunteer Coordinator, at the Arboretum office (543-8800).



NOHS has a quantity of professionally-wrapped, burlap-covered boxes (liquor store carton size) to give away to organizations. Good for display purposes. Contact Vernette Cunningham at 723-6363.

## COMING GARDEN EVENTS

### FALL 1981

- September 30, Wednesday  
10 AM \*Lecture - "Nuts Among the Fruits and Berries"  
by Joseph Witt  
Sponsored by the U. of W. Arboretum  
Montlake Community Center  
Open to the public - no charge
- October 6, Tuesday  
10 AM - 6 PM NOHS Annual Fall Plant Sale  
Look for unusual plants in all departments:  
Rhododendron, Trees and Shrubs, Ground Covers,  
Bonsai and Collector's Corner.  
Museum of History and Industry
- October 7, Wednesday  
10 AM - 6 PM Fall Bulb Sale  
Sponsored by the Arboretum Foundation  
Arboretum Office parking lot
- October 7 & 8  
10 AM - 4 PM Explorers' Walk of Washington Park Arboretum  
Meet at Arboretum Office parking lot
- October 13, Wednesday  
10 AM - Noon FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL  
Sponsored by the Rhododendron Species Foundation  
See back page of NOHS Notes for details.
- October 16 - 18  
10 AM - 5 PM \*Lecture - "Autumn Foliage in the Arboretum"  
by Brian O. Mulligan  
Sponsored by the U. of W. Arboretum  
Montlake Community Center  
Open to the public - no charge
- October 21, Wednesday  
10 AM NOHS Lecture Series  
"Plant Arithmetic, Multiplying and Dividing"  
by Dr. Harold B. Tukey, Director of Arboreta Center  
for Urban Horticulture  
Rhododendron Species Foundation Report and Demonstra-  
tion  
by Kendall W. Gambrill, Curator of Gardens  
Museum of History and Industry  
Charge \$2.50
- October 22, Thursday  
7:30 PM Explorers' Walk of Washington Park Arboretum  
Meet at Arboretum Office parking lot
- October 28, Wednesday  
10 AM - Noon Explorers' Walk of Washington Park Arboretum  
Meet at Arboretum Office parking lot
- November 10, Tuesday  
10 AM - Noon \*Lecture - "The Holly Collection in the Arboretum"  
by Virginia Morrell, American Holly Society  
Sponsored by U. of W. Arboretum  
Montlake Community Center
- November 18, Wednesday Explorers' Walk of Washington Park Arboretum  
Meet at Arboretum Office parking lot
- November 25, Wednesday Explorers' Walk of Washington Park Arboretum  
Meet at Arboretum Office parking lot

\*For reservations, call Jan Pirzio-Biroli, Volunteer Coordinator, at the Arboretum Office (543-8800).

RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION

Fall Foliage Festival

Public Service Announcement

As the end of summer nears, thoughts of fall return and remembrances of brilliantly-colored leaves in the garden. For the third year, the Rhododendron Species Foundation will host a Fall Foliage Festival on October 16 - 17 - 18, Friday thru Sunday, from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

Each day the garden will be open so that visitors may take a leisurely stroll through the extensive rhododendron collection gathered from gardens and native plant areas around the world. In a woodland setting, Foundation guests will enjoy species rhododendrons displaying their bright fall colors.

Plants propagated from the collection will be available each day of the festival. Many rare species will be offered and larger specimen plants will be featured. Average prices of plants range from \$8.00 to \$15.00.

Guided walks will be conducted each day on the following schedule:

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 10:00 AM<br>&<br>3:00 PM | "Fall Foliage of Species Rhododendron" - a walk through the Study Garden emphasizing ornamental value of fall foliage of rhododendrons. |
| 11:00 AM                 | "Photography of Fall Color" - several noted photographers will lead a "working" tour of the garden - bring your camera.                 |
| 12:30 PM                 | "Fall Mushrooms in the RSF Garden" - a member of the Puget Sound Mushroom Society will be our host.                                     |
| 2:00 PM                  | "The RSF Garden Master Plan" - a guided walk explaining the new RSF Garden Master Plan and newly-installed meadow area.                 |

Publications on rhododendrons will be available and a self-guiding garden tour booklet is offered for \$.50. Admission to the garden is free!

The garden is located in Federal Way, Washington. From Seattle: Drive south on I-5, approximately 24 miles from city center, following "Tacoma/Portland" signs. Pass exit 142-B to exit 142-A. Turn right onto exit ramp and continue to S. 348th. Follow the right-hand lane to 32nd Ave. S. Turn left (north), cross the overpass, follow the directional signs to parking area entrances.

From Tacoma: Drive north on I-5, approximately 8 miles from city center to Auburn-North Bend exit. Exit to 32nd Ave. S. Turn left (north), cross overpass, and follow the directional signs to parking area entrances.

Further information may be obtained by calling the Foundation office at 927-6960--Tacoma or 838-4646--Seattle between 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday.

green saplings; sod fences three or four feet high running hundreds of feet down a hillside near the awesome Cliffs of Moher. There were walls of field rock and "lace fences" of stones carefully placed in openwork patterns. There were many kinds of slate walls and "rows" including the "stitch fences" made up of broken slate interspersed with tall slabs of slate blanket stitching the paths along the steep cliffs. On many walls we found wee treasures of ferns and plants tucked into crevices by nature if not by design. I'll never forget our tour group entering the gate in the high wall surrounding Boughton House and being greeted by Lady Scott (Valerie Finniss) carrying a basketful of labels and asking that American visitors please put proper names on her trilliums.

\*\*\*\*

### The Garden Gallop

Dennis Thompson, Seattle, Washington

Britain was a delightful mixture of harrowing roundabouts and the quaint Harrow-on-the-Hill. My first week I stayed with Brian Halliwell at Kew. Besides hours of poking around the gardens and musty little bookshops, I had a chance to meet and visit briefly with far-flung plantsmen (the Gillanders from Tasmania, Wilhelm Schacht from Germany and Rolf Fiedler from Argentina) at the opening of the alpine house at Kew before they were engulfed by the crowds at Nottingham. The weather was beautiful and having given a short talk for the students at Kew, it was enjoyable being recognized by staff who went out of their way to show me special materials and to discuss their program though they were pressed by last-minute preparation for the alpine house opening and the pre-conference tour. I confess it was fun seeing plants we had supplied, growing and blooming at the new facility. It was as interesting, however, to see what wasn't there.

Somehow, I had it in my mind that Kew and British gardeners were above error. In enthusiasm, I sometimes forget the human side of "authorities." There are some common points of confusion about the Northwest, our plants and their distribution. *Lewisia tweedyi* seems to produce a lore uniquely its own. Most people were growing it in pots upright rather than on its side as it grows in the wild. At Kew, there was a plant labeled from California, and at the conference show there was a plant in the winning exhibit labeled "Mt. St. Helens, possibly extinct!" (A safe statement, a little like there are no elephants on St. Helens since the eruption.) Both sites are far south of any collection sites I have been able to locate. Most specimens were not overly happy. . .an exception being Sheila Maule's which were disgustingly healthy and blooming, but so were her other "oh-that's-easy-to-grows" from lists of plants-not-in-cultivation (including fritillarias and *Saxifraga tolmiei*). The other plant in amazing confusion was the *Sedum spathulifolium* 'Cape Blanco.' Evidently, early in its cultivated history in Britain, a latinizer got ahold of it. Not once in nursery, show or garden did we find the correct name--sometimes it was "capablanca," sometimes it was "cappablance" and even once, it was "casablanca!"

The people at Nottingham were delightful and, as usual, there was far too little time for visiting, swapping yarns and looking at slides. It is unfortunate that the lengths of the talks were not cut in half and reclaimed time dedicated to sharing among the delegates slides. Housing and food were superior.

As a means of avoiding tourist haunts, Marvin and I presented talks on Northwest native plants and gardens with a somewhat Abbott and Costello flavor. British gardeners are magnificent hosts, delightful conversationalists and not bad at horse-trading. Its amazing how many plants and gardens can be seen in two weeks. Of course, we travelled the most logical route--from London to Diss to Kettering to Nottingham to Northwich, to Edinburgh to Ullswater to London to Hythe to Rye to Woking to Cheltenham to Evesham to London to Oxford to London, rather like a poolshark's fancy bank-shot or the Mad Hatter's dash! Sedgewich was a delightful wrong turn. A quiet stream cut through a steep stack of limestone and polished the bank floors in rippled paving. Streamside meadows and rock cracks frothed with buttercups and marsh-marigolds looking a little like a football player and his kid brother. A little higher in the meadow, English bluebells bloomed with what at first glance appeared to be erythronium leaves. A sniff, however, quickly dispelled this illusion as rank garlicky odor swamped the moist woodsy air.

Having spent a good deal of last year with Charles Dodgson and his Alice, a trip to Oxford for the Old Sheep Shop and Christchurch College was essential. The weather was mellow and summerlike as I spent a day photographing wall-flowers growing in walls and chimney-pots and soaking-up sunshine along the banks of the Thames. Its easy to understand the lines:

All in a golden afternoon  
 ...  
 Beneath such dreamy weather  
 ...  
 The dream-child moving through a land  
 Of wonders wild and new  
 ...

Two-and-a-half weeks later, I returned there with Marvin Black to show him the "wonders" I had discovered. The temperature was below freezing, the architecture was austere, almost ominous in the starkness of its snowy shroud, ending the trip like the poem:

Lay it where Childhood's dreams are twined  
 In Memory's mystic band.  
 Like pilgrim's wither'd wreath of flowers  
 Pluck'd in a far-off land.

\*\*\*\*

Sallie Allen, Seattle, Washington

This was my fourth trip to Great Britain in ten years; the first was to the International Rock Garden Conference in Harrogate in 1971. I also participated strongly in the First Interim Conference in Seattle in 1976 so "Alpines '81" had a special "people" meaning to me, renewing old friendships with rock gardeners throughout the world and, of course, establishing new ones. I was particularly impressed by the voices, the many delightful accents among English-speaking people wherever they gathered in lecture hall, the showroom, the marquee or the dining halls, those charming accents that vary from place to place throughout England, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, as well as those

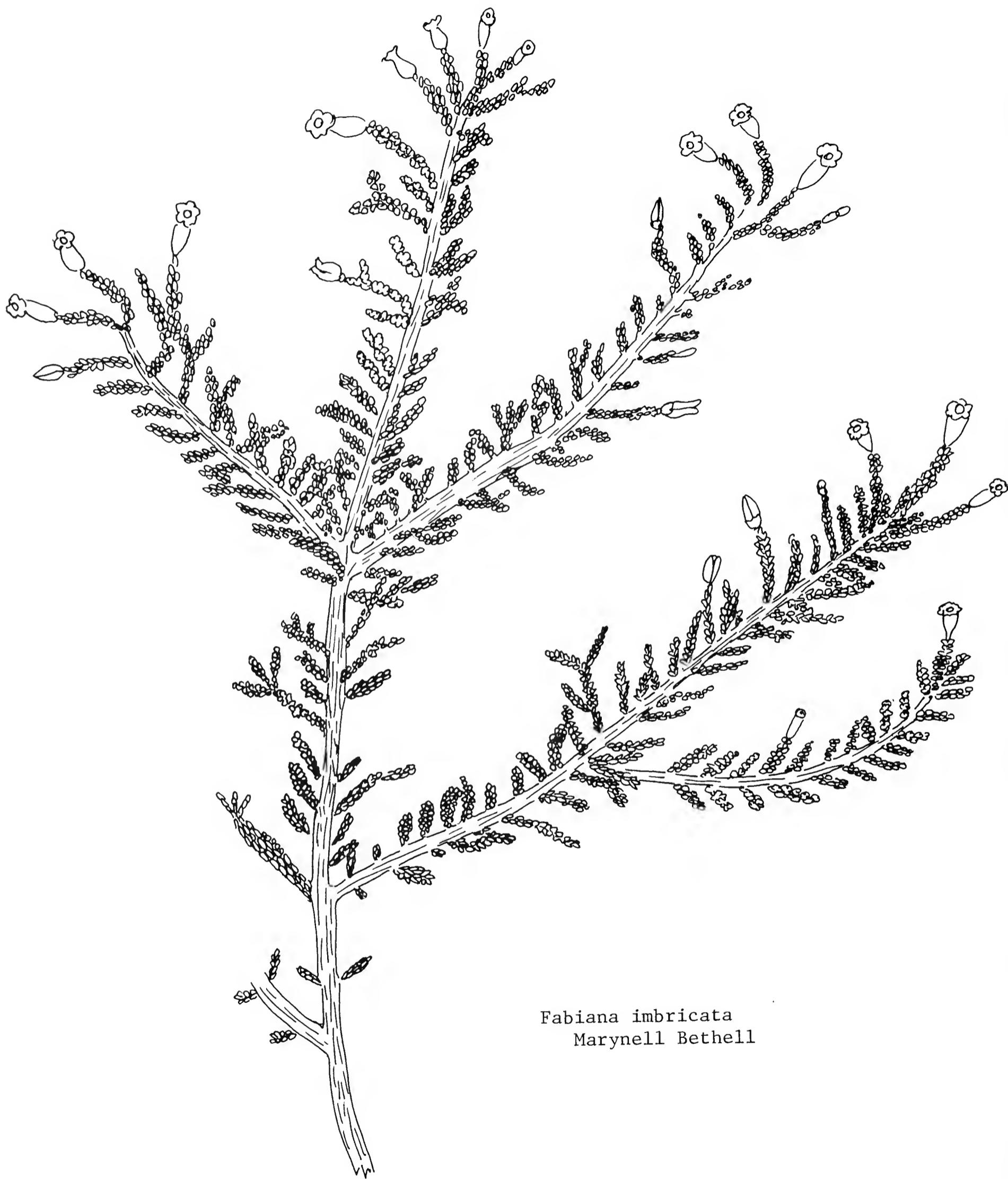
that differ from north to south, east to west in Canada and the United States. There were many other countries represented, some understood, but spoke little English; Japanese and French I could recognize but others I could not. It was truly an international gathering where the language of alpine plants was understood by all.

For me, the most outstanding presentation of the entire conference was the incredibly fine, beautifully-staged Ericaceae display garden created by Barry Starling, Nurseryman, (contributing NOSH member) from Epping Upland, England. His tremendous knowledge of this interesting and varied plant family was evident as was his ability as a horticulturist. Even the rarest, most difficult of plants among the many genera represented were shown in glorious flower. All were of rock garden stature, arranged pleasingly on either side of winding pathways, one section of which contained an amazing collection of bi-generic hybrids, crosses between *Pernettya* and *Gaultheria*, *Rhododendron* and *Ledum*, *Phyllodoce* and *Kalmiopsis*, *Rhodothamnus* and *Phyllodoce*, some that have received names and others that await introduction. It may interest our members to learn that a number of unusual plants that have in the past appeared in the "Collector's Corner" of our fall plant sale have originated in the treasure garden of Barry Starling.

I did not participate in any pre- or post-conference tours, as I had either visited most of the wonderful gardens previously or planned to go later on during my six-week stay in Great Britain. Before leaving Seattle I purchased a month Brit-rail pass which has to be the greatest bargain of anything offered there and has the advantage of eliminating standing in long ticket lines. You can board the trains as soon as they come in. I loved riding the trains, large and small, new and old, and they afforded me the opportunity of seeing parts of Great Britain that I had never seen before, returning to favorite places and to stop off with dear friends for a few days visit along the way. It was from the train windows that I continuously saw my favorite British native plant that never ceases to thrill me, *Primula vulgaris*, whose cheerful yellow flowers decorated the railroad cuts and embankments.

After Nottingham, I ventured by train up into northern Scotland. From Inverness for several hours the track followed furths and the coastline of the North Sea, the train stopping briefly at little villages, then turning inland through lonely moorlands with somber-colored heather not yet in spring growth. What a sight it must be in flower! The stark severity, relieved occasionally by sparkling streams, created its own feeling of remote, unspoiled beauty. The only animals seen were the ever-present flocks of sheep with their new lambs frolicking together like playful puppies. Upon approaching Thurso, the northernmost village in Scotland, everything suddenly changed to soft farm country, and that which had just been a very small dot on the map was in fact a thriving community of 10,000 people.

There is a once daily modern ferry service from Thurso to Stromness, the quaint little settlement on Mainland, the largest of the Orkney Islands. Although there was certainly a good deal to see, narrow winding streets and shops to explore, there and in Kirkwall, a half-hour bus ride to the other side of the island, it was blowing and spitting snow during my two-day stay, so did not venture very far afield in the countryside on foot. I would like to return in midsummer, allowing enough time to explore there and on the other



*Fabiana imbricata*  
Marynell Bethell

islands, and perhaps I would see the tiny Scottish *Primula scotica* in its native habitat. I did see it in flower three weeks later in the amazing new alpine house at Kew Gardens in London. I managed to find a little booklet A Checklist of Vascular Plants; Flowering Plants and Ferns, which serves to whet the appetite for a future, extended visit.

I stayed three nights at a pleasant bed and breakfast accommodation across the Tay River from Perth, Scotland, easy walking distance to explore the city. A half a block in one direction was the lovely garden of Branklyn and just next door to it was Orchardbank Nursery and private garden of Jimmy Aitken who probably knows more about the native Scottish flora than anyone else in the country. We had planned to go on several field trips into the Highlands, however, the late spring snow held the mountains inaccessible. We did, however, have a delightful day exploring the high hills above Loch Tay and down into the beautiful valley below.

Just two blocks in the other direction from where I stayed, was the hall where the Scottish Rock Garden Club's spring Perth show was being held. Here I saw many friends, not only admiring the fine display of plants but gathering together, discussing and reliving happy experiences of the Nottingham Conference. I made notes on many outstanding plants in the show, but two very rare and difficult ones were my favorites. The first was *Primula concinna*, a little-known species native to the Himalayas, looking much like a miniature soft, purple *P. denticulata*, only two inches high. The second was a six-inch pot of expertly grown *Cassiope hypnooides*, with its minute needle-like leaves spreading rather than imbricated, as is the leaf habit of most other members of the genus, and even displaying a few white bells at the tips of the branches.

The large garden of Dr. and Mrs. J. G. Elliott in picturesque Kent was on the pre-conference tour, as it is one of the most interesting and varied of all private gardens in England. Toward the end of my stay in Great Britain, I spent two nights in the beautifully-restored 17th century, half-timbered home of Jean and Jack Elliott, renewing our friendship, enjoying their warm hospitality and having the time to really explore that fascinating garden. Although Jack's specialty is bulbs, his knowledge and interest encompasses alpines of all kinds, as well as very unusual trees and shrubs. There are many walled gardens and raised beds which form happy homes for his collection of rare and difficult plants.

It was in this garden that I found two of the most fascinating shrubs that top my long list of most interesting plant discoveries, the white-flowered *Fabiana imbricata* and the violet *F. violacea*. They are heath-like shrubs, three to six feet tall and spreading, with small evergreen leaves and many tubular flowers. Since their native habitat is Chile, that are considered somewhat tender, with *F. violacea* the hardiest of the two.



Earthworms: The gray-pink ones are important to the garden. They improve the soil by swallowing it and expelling it as castings which contain NITROGEN, PHOSPHOROUS AND POTASSIUM. The red ones (fishworms) are no-gooders because all they want to do is fool around in damp, spongy places instead of getting down to work in garden soils. (He's great in the compost pile or on the fish hook, though!)

## PLANTS GROWING PEOPLE

Maureen Phillips, Seattle, Washington

Horticulturists and plant lovers are among my favorite people. They care for each other and other living things, never run out of conversation, and exhibit incredible stamina at all ages! I have always enjoyed being around such people and just assumed that their superior and endearing qualities were inborn. Having switched to a new career in Horticultural Therapy, I find that not only do people grow plants, but plants grow people.

For the past year I have been working in Horticultural Therapy at a training center in South King County. Here, at the South King County Activity Center, disabled adults receive training and ultimate placement in the community. It is essential to establish good work habits and appropriate instructional and behavior responses to survive in the community. To achieve this, trainees are passed through a series of tightly structured responses. Most of the work is contractual bench work and trainees earn wages based on their productivity rate.

There was no previous Horticulture program or training, so it has been a marvelous opportunity to work, watch and record the results. The wonderful thing about Horticulture is the instant connection with everyday living. It is a tangible occupation, so important for those with learning disabilities. Its components are easily recognized and assimilated. "Hands on" activities provide valuable practical experience, help to develop a sense of caring, a sense of responsibility and an awareness of time and timing. Furthermore, all Horticulture staff members are working side by side with trainees, providing a good working model, less direct verbal instructions are needed, but we are tapping all senses in the acquisition of new skills.

The first venture into Horticulture and Horticultural products was last fall. The trainees assembled sturdy cedar containers, mixed the soil and planted small broad leaf evergreens in these "Patio Planters." Our plan was to provide attractive substitutes for exhausted petunias and pelargoniums. What a positive experience for all of us! Not one behavior problem surfaced! Trainees who normally need 1:1 supervision worked alongside others. We even managed a small assembly line, which generated healthy competition and criticism, frequently absent in bench work, and enormous pride in the finished product. When I realized that some workers were skipping their breaks and all the primary reinforcers of the "junk machines," I knew we had a good thing going!

We attacked the outside areas gradually, getting large cedar planters under the office windows and planting them with trees and shrubs. Kent Kiwanis built a lathe house for us, so now we had the opportunity to increase the number of plants on site and learn about plant maintenance. We are so fortunate to have our own Woodshop for, as we have expanded, they have always come through with the finished product.

This spring we created an "Instant Patio" using our own designs of portable cedar fence units, raised vegetable beds, cedar planters and our special wheelchair accessible picnic tables. We've planted trees, perennials and evergreen shrubs, all in containers. Zucchinis are growing up the cyclone fence, a quick support for them, and a rapidly-growing screening for privacy. Suddenly those

in training and staff members are mingled, coming and going through their break time or lunch. I get daily reports on the changing color of the tomatoes, the size of the zucchinis or the taste of the lettuce. Some such reports come from people who have not been in the habit of initiating conversation.

Inside the offices, we now have an array of plants and staff is constantly asking for more and more! Certainly it is more appealing to the eye, and has generated a good feeling of camaraderie. Three smokers have actually stopped smoking for the sake of "their" plants. That's something we can all appreciate!

The next venture was the designing and construction of "Rachael's Garden" at another of our facilities, Crestview Conference Center. Completely and independently wheelchair accessible, with raised curbing for the visually impaired, raised and wheelchair accessible flower beds and frequent resting areas, we hope to attract all people with a common interest in the love of a garden. On a daily basis, this garden provides the stimulus of sight and touch to multi-handicapped cerebral palsied adults. Some have never touched growing foliage. It is hard to record the sheer pleasure involved in this simple activity, but the fact that some of these people can now propel themselves independently into the courtyard is the proof we need!

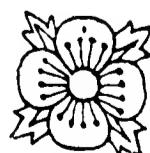
The latest achievement is the formation of a Landscape Maintenance crew. The Supervisor is a trained landscaper and his crews are in training. They are working daily on off-site contracts; some state contracts, some private contracts. Each work area provides valuable experience. The stature, stamina, social and emotional growth of each crew member is growing by leaps and bounds. One young man, whom I had thought was non-verbal, greets me enthusiastically each morning with news of what he did the day before! Physically he is literally standing taller, his muscles are developing and he now has a healthy tan.

The development of our Lake Desire site (a former Nike base of 47 acres) is now underway. This has been designated by the State for Horticultural Training and Recreation for the Disabled, and what plans we have!! Special wheelchair accessible greenhouses and propagation areas, woodland trails, native areas, display gardens, and full Horticultural training for all our workers. National trends indicate an ever-increasing demand for "pot plants," "instant landscaping," interior designing with plants, plant leasing, living Christmas trees, native plants, overwintering of tender plants, containers of every size and shape; the list goes on and on.

Plants are already helping our people grow and develop their fine and large muscle skills, improve wrist rotation, varying finger pressure, stamina, social interaction, verbal skills, sense of responsibility and achievement, self-confidence and self-esteem.

They will be providing the opportunity to nurture creativity frequently lost by routine bench work, and most important, the opportunity to learn different skills, alternative jobs and the chance to make excellent competitive wages in the community.

Plants do grow people. Keep watching us grow!!



# Tidbits by Ladybug



QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM NEAR AND FAR

Q: I've just returned from the mountains and the alpine flowers around 16,000 on the Sikkim-Tibet frontier were beautiful. Please confirm if the plants enclosed are *Cassiope selaginoides* and *Diplarche*, if so, what species? If it is *Diplarche*, I shall send photographs and also a short write-up for you. I am sending you plants by separate post.

Keshab Pradhan, Gangtok, Sikkum, India

A: Your identification of the plant samples you sent is correct. The *Cassiope selaginoides* is the most slender dwarf form that I have ever seen. Ludlow and Sherriff introduced a dwarf form under an L & S number, but it was not nearly so small as the one your found. Since there are two species of *Diplarche*, *D. multiflora* and *D. pauciflora* (the smaller of the two), native to Sikkim and Bhutan, I'm not certain which this would be. I recall reading in the Royal Horticultural Society journal years ago that *D. multiflora* was the closest thing to a heather in the Himalayas, an erect shrub to nine inches, having heath-like foliage and pink cylindrical flowers. To my knowledge, this rare member of the *Ericaceae* family has never been successfully introduced, only grown briefly by R. B. Cooke, that fine plantsman in Northumberland, England.

Sallie Allen



A Winter-Flowered Birch--Marvin Black's dissertation on *Clematis tangutica* reminded me of an effect once achieved in a garden I no longer have; one that any number of passers-by made mention of. It was simply the happy combination of a white bark birch into which the vine quickly shinnied to the top. The two foliages were as one through summer, with the yellow flowers attractive enough. But it was in winter that it was really notable. When the birch leaves yellowed, the vine was cut at about a yard from the ground but left in place. Although dingy when wet, the seed heads fluffed with each drying and the tree appeared to be covered with silvery-gray pompoms. When these were rimmed with January hoarfrost, the effect was spectacular in early morning light.

This is a very hardy clematis which has escaped the Sparks, Nevada garden of Loring and Margaret Williams; in such a climate, the winter effect must be even more telling than here in Puget Sound country.

Roy Davidson  
Bellevue, Washington



Q: During our recent trip into Northwest Territory in Canada, we discovered a most interesting little sub-shrub that we could neither identify or even place into a plant family. We saw it on the south side of Great Slave Lake at Hay River and later three hundred miles distant on the north side just out of Yellowknife. The thin ovate leaves were densely arranged and each unbranched stem had a single orange berry about the size of a huckleberry, containing a rather large single seed. The pulp had a funny, soapy feeling. I think it could be an attractive addition to the garden.

Sallie Allen

A: Curiously, I have just been reading about a plant, *Comandra umbellata* (Santalaceae, Sandlewood family), one of two species native to North America. The second, *C. livida*, sounds like your plant, the berries, when ripe, are red rather than orange. Because they are parasitic on the roots of various gymnosperms and angiosperms, they might be difficult to establish as garden plants.

Jean Witt

Have any of our members had any experience with *Comandra livida* or have any suggestions as to how to raise it from seed?



I found your *Synthyris schizantha* in a number of older books, but not in Hitchcock; I wonder why. According to Roy Davidson, it is called the fringed synthyris and is found on the moist, shaded cliffs on the Pacific side of the Olympic Peninsula. He writes as follows: "It is very distinct in several respects as not to be confused with any other species. It may be the largest of its genus with leaves well over six inches broad on record. These leaves are unique in being thin and deciduous, falling in early autumn. Thus, the flowers emerge from bare earth a startling purple, the four unequal petals deeply slashed into soldanella-like fringe. There is a pair of large leafy bracts beneath the inflorescence giving the effect of green foliage, but the leaves emerge only later."

Nan Ballard



Q: A friend of ours has just returned from Newfoundland where he found a *Rubus* species that no one in the area could identify other than by its common name of cloudberry or baked-apple. Could you identify it for me?

Harry Butler, Spring Valley, Ohio

A: When you were telling me about the little *Rubus* on the phone, I could not remember what it was or where I had seen it. As soon as I had hung up, I remembered having found it outside of Juneau, Alaska, growing in moist, peaty soil, the name: *R. chamaemorus*. It is an attractive, creeping plant with a single orange raspberry-like fruit which is good eating and make a delicious pie. It is said to be the favorite native fruit of the Eskimo who preserve it in seal oil. Why the common name baked-apple, I cannot imagine.

Sallie Allen



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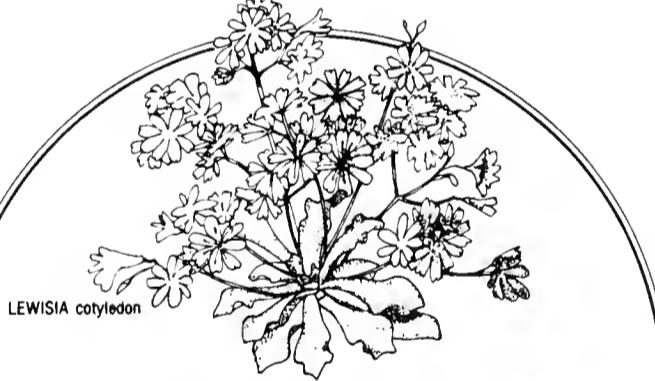
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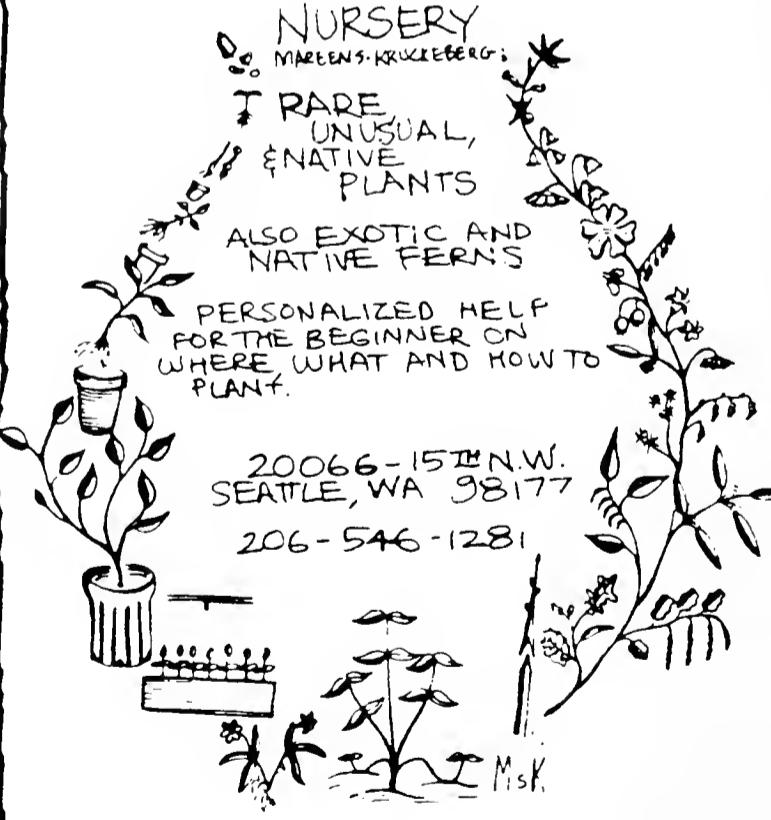
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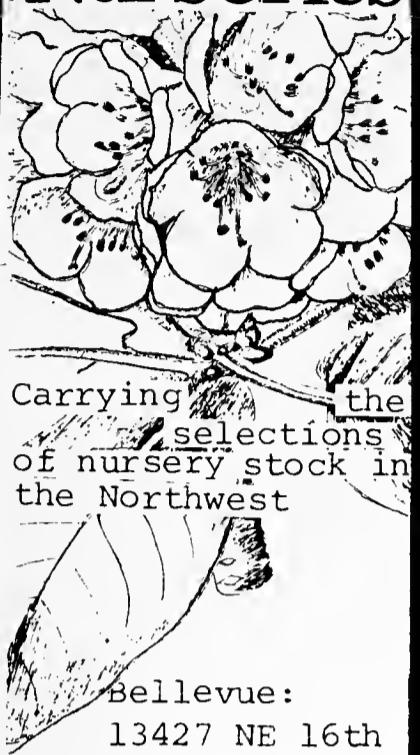
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